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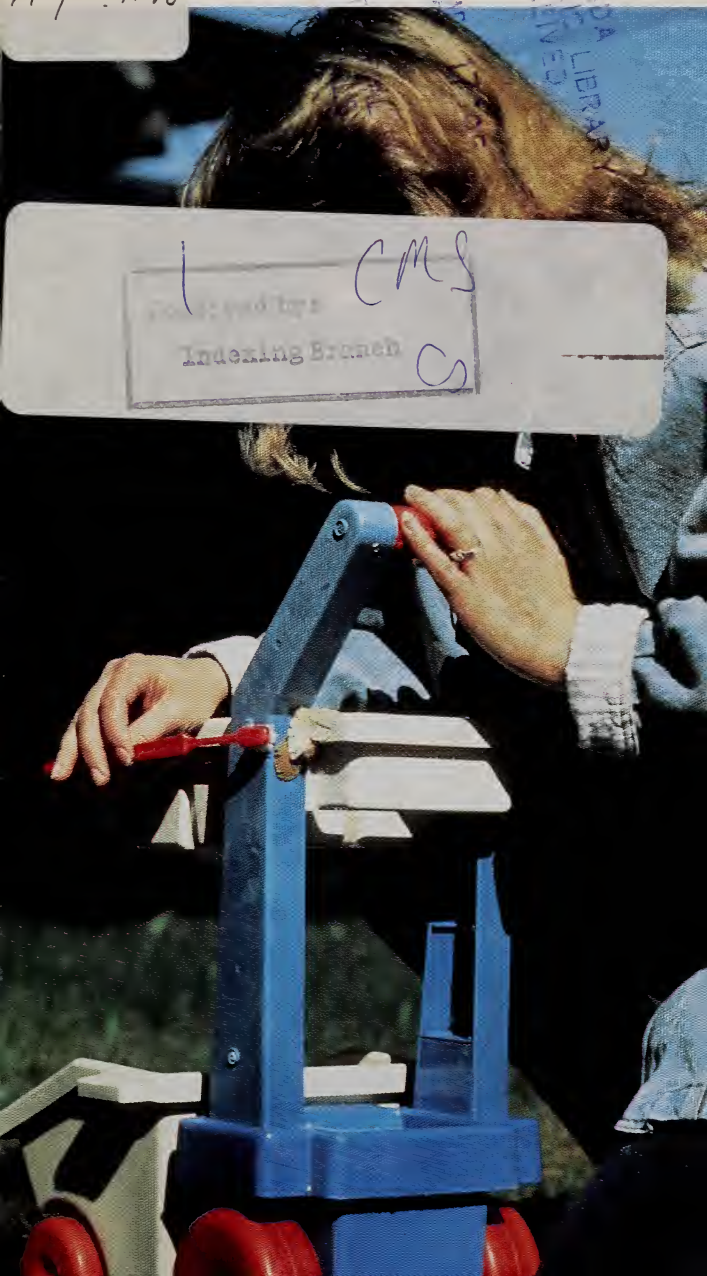
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Program Aid No. 1525

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Don't Bring
Home a Bug



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Gypsy moth caterpillar.

Items brought into the United States may harbor foreign animal and plant pests that could seriously damage American crops, livestock, and forests. You are responsible for making sure your household goods don't bring foreign pests home. This leaflet explains how to inspect your household goods before moving to see if they harbor insects, snails, or soil.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is particularly concerned about further introductions of the gypsy moth. Gypsy moth caterpillars defoliate trees and shrubs and have few natural enemies in the United States. USDA is currently working with State governments to try to limit the damage these pests cause. Further introductions of the gypsy moth would cause widespread damage to both private and commercial land.

Because foreign soil in any amount could carry pests, objects contaminated with soil cannot come into the country. All military and commercial equipment, like tanks and trucks, is thoroughly washed before being returned to the United States after overseas use. Likewise, your personal property must be soil free.

Cover photo: When inspecting outdoor household items, check inside and outside tubular articles like lawn furniture, ladders, toys, and swingsets. Probe the tubes or flush them with hot water or another pest-killing agent.



Gypsy moth adult female with egg mass.

Gypsy moth adult male.



Do-It-Yourself Inspection

Inspect any household article left outdoors, stored in open or exposed areas, or stored indoors but used outdoors.

The checklist included in this brochure lists common outdoor household articles that could carry insects, snails, or soil. Carefully examine each article, clean it if necessary, and check it off the list.

Be sure to enter the date and place of inspection on the checklist and sign on the bottom. This will be your official certificate of self-inspection. You must include this list with the paperwork accompanying your move.

If you find gypsy moth or other egg masses, scrape them into a container of hot water, household bleach, ammonia, or kerosene.



Agriculture Self-Inspection Checklist

Important: Make sure this checklist goes with your household goods when you move!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Place Inspected: _____

Recreational or Camping Items

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backboards | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boats | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat trailers | <input type="checkbox"/> Tents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campers | <input type="checkbox"/> Waders or boots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice chests | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles | |

Household Items

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air conditioners | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheets of plastic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barrels | <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard and wooden boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothesline poles | <input type="checkbox"/> Storm/screen doors and windows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothespin bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Television antennas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Empty plant containers | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash cans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel tanks | <input type="checkbox"/> Washing machines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ladders | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather vanes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor doormats | <input type="checkbox"/> Window awnings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor thermometers | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refrigerators | |

Building Materials

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bricks | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools and toolboxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cement mixing tubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Welding equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lumber | <input type="checkbox"/> Workbenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pipes | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Yard and Garden Items

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal houses (doghouses, rabbit hutches, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawnmowers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barbecue grills | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailboxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdbaths | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic tables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird feeders | <input type="checkbox"/> Planters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird houses | <input type="checkbox"/> Porch or patio furniture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bug lights | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs and posts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carts | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowblowers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coldframes | <input type="checkbox"/> Spreaders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driftwood | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage sheds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pools and swimming pool equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizer | <input type="checkbox"/> Water hoses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flagpoles | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelbarrows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden tillers | <input type="checkbox"/> Yard decorations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden tools | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Children's Playthings

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles | <input type="checkbox"/> Tire swings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playhouses | <input type="checkbox"/> Wagons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandboxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Other outside toys like trucks, sand molds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleds, toboggans | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swingsets | |

Other Items

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cars or trucks | <input type="checkbox"/> Stored tires/snow tires |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car parts | <input type="checkbox"/> Any item not mentioned that was stored outside |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car ramps | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm items | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant/nursery items | |

Signature: _____

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What To Do If You Find Soil or Gypsy Moths, Snails, or Other Pests

Wash all soil from outdoor household articles. An effective way to dispose of gypsy moths, other insects, or snails is to remove them by hand and deposit them in hot water, ammonia, household bleach, or kerosene. Scrape egg masses from their locations with a putty knife or similar flat-edged tool.

Gypsy moth hairs, found attached to all of the insect's life stages, can cause people who are allergic to them to have skin rashes or respiratory reactions. Other pests and dust may cause similar reactions. If necessary, wear gloves, protective clothing, and a dust mask.

Once you have completed your inspection of the outdoor items you intend to move, protect them from being reinfested.

Remember, you are the key to preventing the spread of gypsy moths and other pests on outdoor household articles. You may elect to abandon articles if they are heavily infested and of little value to you. Do your part to prevent the spread of these pests and help keep the homefront pest free.

Snails are destructive pests that can be found on outdoor household goods.





Commercial enterprises and the military are responsible for cleaning all their equipment to ensure it is free of soil and pests before it is brought home from abroad. All tanks and trucks are thoroughly inspected before being returned to the United States.

Many kinds of pests, like khapra beetles, could harm U.S. agriculture if accidentally introduced.

